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Indiana Poet Laureate Visits Saint Joseph's College

By Lauren Grasham
News Writer

On Wednesday, November 2, Indiana Poet Laureate Shari Wagner stopped by Saint Joe to read some of her work. Students, faculty, and community members gathered in the Courtney Auditorium to listen to her speak and to enjoy her poems. Wagner read a variety of her poems from many of her books, many of which were inspired by unique places or interesting people. Wagner's love for poetry began as a child. Her family had just moved to Somalia, on the horn of Africa. "I [had been] living in Wells County, and we were surrounded by cornfields," she says. "The landscape was so different [in Somalia]. It was called the Gubon, which was a desert area. There were nomads and camels and I was just fascinated by the beauty of the desert." That experience sparked her creative side and she began writing her first poem. She worked on it for the entire year that she was there. This move ended up having a lasting impact on her, even when she came back to Indiana. "When I came back, I looked at the landscape differently and I was still drawn to try to write about it and to explore it through language." From that point on, Wagner continued to write more and more poems.

Wagner also explained how she enjoys writing about places she enjoys and people she finds to be interesting. One of her favorite places for inspiration is the Jasper Pulaski Wildlife Area. This was



Shari Wagner visits SJC to read from her books and talk to students.
Photo courtesy of Lauren Grasham

the subject for her first poem in her book *The Harmonist At Nightfall: Poems of Indiana*. "I found this newspaper article about the sandhill cranes gathering there each fall and in the spring. I was just amazed when I went there. Before I would even roll down the windows I could hear their voices and they sounded like prehistoric dinosaurs, and that was magical." Wagner also writes about towns she has visited, and sometimes even ones she has never been to, but still finds fascinating.

For Wagner, there are many poets that inspire her poems and motivate her to write. The first one she mentioned was Mary Oliver. "I love nature and she has many wonderful nature poems. I love her collection *American Primitive*," she explains. Ted Kooser was another poet that

she greatly enjoys. "[He's] very accessible but very well crafted. I love the imagery and just make ordinary things seem so magical." Other inspirations include Yusef Komunyakaa, one of her teachers at Indiana University, and Robert Frost.

Wagner has written many of poems, making it hard for her to pick one as her favorite. "It's usually the last poem I've written," she said. "I've heard from a lot of other writers that their last thing they've worked on that feels finished is their favorite." However, if she had to choose, there was one in mind that she would pick. In her last collection, *The Harmonist At Nightfall*, she particularly liked her poem about the Lerner Theatre in Elkhart, Indiana. "I was assigned to write about that

place by Indiana Landmarks, an organization that protects historical buildings. But then I discovered that my mother saw her first movie there. I visited the theatre and I talked to the owner's son who gave me a lot of interesting information about it and it was fun writing the poem, too." The story behind it and her family's personal story relating to it made it stand out from her other works, causing it to be one she really enjoyed.

For more information on Shari's work, visit www.throughthesycamores.com, www.shariwagnerpoet.com, or her Facebook page at www.facebook.com/IndianaPoetLaureateShariWagner.

Christmas in Collegeville

By Natalie Dziadosz
News Writer

With Christmas just around the corner, SJC is beginning a new tradition to celebrate the season. Christmas traditions around the world and even in the United States are very diverse, and SJC is adding to those traditions, with some new traditions of its own, which involve decorating the entire campus to celebrate 'Christmas in Collegeville.' The College hopes that this event will grow over time and strengthen the spirit of the season not just on campus, but in the community as well.

The start of the celebration begins on November 27th with a lighting ceremony which will be presided over by SJC President Dr. Robert A. Pastoor and a representative from the mayor's office. Festivities will continue the following weekend with the Gallagher Charitable Society's annual Christmas party and the Rensse-

laer Christmas Parade, with SJC student and staff participants, on Saturday, December 3.

The celebration concludes after a full day of events on Sunday. Sunday celebrations will begin with the SJC Concert Choir's annual Lessons and Carols concert at 4 pm in the Saint Joseph's Chapel. After the concert, there will be a live nativity scene outside the Chapel and horse-drawn carriages waiting to take participants to the Core Building for cookies and cocoa. The evening ends with Mass at 7 pm in the Chapel.

"All of SJC is excited to open our doors and share the holiday spirit with the community," said SJC Director of Marketing Greg Gill. "We hope that the lights around campus will be visually inviting and will encourage people to stop in and take part in one of the many activities that we have planned or just take the opportunity to stroll through our



SJC is introducing a new Christmas tradition on Campus to celebrate the holidays.

Photo courtesy of SJC Marketing Office

beautiful and historic campus. All are welcome - old friends that haven't been here in awhile and new friends that may be coming to campus for the first time. We hope that this celebration gets bigger and better every year."

This is an exciting new tradition for all Saint Joseph's College

students, as well as the Rensselaer community, which will bring us all together during the Christmas season. This new program will help reflect the culture here at SJC and what the season really means to us.

Have a comment on one of our articles? Write a letter to the editor! Email responses, rebuttals, and commentaries to Co-Editors-in-Chief, Kylie Hill at khw10051@saintjoe.edu or Alyssa Cook at acw10024@saintjoe.edu to have them published in our next issue!

SJC Celebrates Dia De Los Muertos

By **Ana Lara**
News Writer

On October 31st, the Latinos Unidos club set up an altar for the Day of the Dead (Dia de Los Muertos) in the core foyer. The Day of the Dead is a Mexican holiday celebrated over three days, beginning on October 31st and ending on November 2nd. The Dia de los Muertos holiday would be the equivalent of an American Halloween. However, the traditions are quite different. The holiday also parallels the Catholic holy days of All Saints Day and All Souls Day. The entire campus was encouraged to bring a picture of a deceased loved one for the altar. On this day it is said that the spirits of the deceased come back to visit the altar set up for them and enjoy all the treats on the table.

The altar is composed of a minimum of two tiers. The first tier is for pictures of the deceased, and the second tier is for all offerings to the deceased ones. Some of the items included on the altar are: candles to welcome the spirits back to their altars and Marigolds (also called cempasúchitl) which symbolize death. These are included

because it is said that their strong fragrance also helps lead the dead back to the altar. The Marigold petals may also be sprinkled on the floor in front of the altar, or even sprinkled to create a path from the altar to the front door, so that the spirit may find their way inside. The alter can also include incense, most commonly copal incense, which is the dried aromatic resin from a tree native to Mexico. Food is also included on the altar. Pan de muerto, also known as “bread of the dead”, is typically set out. And, perhaps the most famous part of the altars is the Sugar skulls. These colorful skulls are used as symbols of death and the afterlife. Sugar skulls are not only given as gifts to the living during Day of the Dead; they are also placed as offerings on the altar.

Although these traditional offerings are usually included, many families modernize or individualize their altars by including the deceased’s favorite foods such as Snickers bars or Doritos. These altars are sacred, and many families throughout Mexico and the United States create them each year to pay tribute to their deceased loved



Above: SJC’s Day of the Dead Altar
 Photo courtesy of Ana Lara

ones. Jessica Tovar, President of the Latinos Unidos Club says, “The table to me is being able to remember deceased loved ones and celebrate the life they had here on Earth.” The Altar is currently still up in the Core Foyer, should anyone would like to visit and pay their respects.

2016 Phonathon: Raising Funds, Reaching Alumni

By **Josie Gropp**
News Writer

Every year, throughout the month of October, Saint Joseph’s College hosts a fundraiser for the College Fund called “Phonathon.” Any student can volunteer for this by a completing a simple sign-up form during the month of September. Phonathon works if, and only if, they have student involvement. Organized by the Office of Institutional Advancement, the Phonathon team hires at least fifty students (preferably more) to make the calls. “We will be looking for enthusiastic callers for next October!” says Beth Graf, Assistant Vice President, Division of Institutional Advancement. Callers are responsible for reaching out to alumni, parents, and friends of Saint Joseph’s College to foster relationships, provide updates on campus news and events, update personal records, and last but not least, raise unregulated money for the College.

“Phonathon is a good way to connect with alumni of our school,” says senior Molly Flynn, “It’s nice to hear about their time on campus as well as their favorite memories. It’s crazy how similar our stories are to each other. This year was my fourth Phonathon, and it has

been incredible getting to know everybody involved. We have had good groups of people working the past four years, and we have always had good results as far as fundraising goes.” Flynn believes the Phonathon experiences have been so great that the goal for future Phonathon fundraisers will be to “keep going what we’re doing.”

Another Phonathon volunteer, Jackie Leeuw, says “To me, Phonathon means connecting with alumni over the phone, whether they are alums from the 1950’s or alums that have just graduated.” Leeuw goes on to say how important it is that we make this connection with alumni in order to receive a donation from them. “As for things going well,”

Leeuw continues, “I think calling and getting donations went really well. We raised a lot of money that will be able to be utilized.” Contributions to College Fund benefit students who deserve scholarships and provide funding for facility enhancements, enrichments for faculty and staff, advancements in technology, student services, and more! With only a week left, Phonathoners had raised over \$110,000 out of a goal of \$165,000!

Anyone interested in making a contribution toward the Phonathon goal can give directly through a secure website, by email, or phone at 1-800-227-1898 or 866-6250 (locally).



Above: Students calling alumni during SJC’s 2016 Phonathon
 Photo courtesy of SJC Marketing Office

2016 Election Update: Hail to the Chief



By **Jose Arteaga**
Political Columnist

Wow! That is all I can say: Wow! After a long, 18-month election cycle, it is over. The 2016 Presidential Election will go down in history as one of the craziest, chaotic, dramatic, entertaining, and divided elections ever. It can definitely be described as one for the record books. Over 20 individuals fought for the highest office in the land, it came down to businessman Donald J. Trump and former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. These two fought and debated policy and character back and forth since their party’s nomination. After an FBI investigation and an Access Hollywood tape, we finally elected a President. On November 8, 2016, Donald J. Trump became the 45th President of the United States of America.

Trump will have a chance to remake the nation by nominating a conservative for a swing seat on the Supreme Court. He’ll also have a Republican House and Senate. So we’ll soon see how serious Trump is about the policy proposals of his campaign, such as building a wall along the Mexican border. Last week, President Barack Obama welcomed President-elect Donald Trump to the White House on Thursday, as both men put past antagonisms aside in a

time-honored ritual epitomizing the peaceful transfer of political power. Obama told Trump: “If you succeed, the country succeeds,” as the two men sat in high-backed chairs in front of the fireplace in the Oval Office. “Mr. President, it was a great honor being with you, and I look forward to being with you many, many more times,” Trump said, adding that he and Obama had spoken about some wonderful and difficult things and “some high-flying assets.” It was not immediately clear what he meant. The President-elect also said he would seek “counsel” from Obama.

Finally, the question we all are asking: how did Trump win? He did much, much better with white voters than previous GOP nominees. Overall, white voters backed Trump 58% to Clinton’s 37%. He won white college graduates by 4 points. And here’s the big one: Trump won whites without college degrees by 39 points. Meanwhile, Trump’s offensive remarks about Latinos and African-Americans failed to send enough voters in these groups into the arms of Clinton, who got smaller shares of those voters than President Barack Obama.

Lastly, I want to thank everyone for reading this column. I really enjoyed covering this election and I hope that you learned some things along the way. And, if the election did not go the way you wanted, keep your head up, there is a reason why we are called the UNITED states of America.



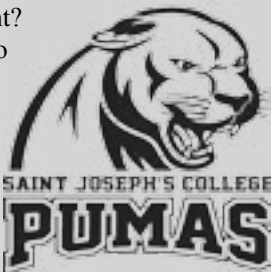
Left: President-Elect Donald J. Trump, VP Mike Pence, and son, Barron Trump

Photo courtesy of Google Images

Upcoming Puma Events!

- November 18-27 - Thanksgiving Break
- November 28 - Classes Resume
- December 3 - Gallagher Charitable Ball
- December 3 - PAC Bingo Night
- December 7 - December Graduation

Want to get the word out about your event?
 Email the date and name of your event to
 Casey Snow at
 csnow@saintjoe.edu or
 Alyssa Cook at
 acw10024@saintjoe.edu!



Social Media Headaches

By Karen Gramajo
Opinions Writer

I enjoy social media. It has been a part of me throughout the age of the Internet. I get to reconnect with acquaintances from many years ago. I am involved in different social media outlets from Pinterest to Twitter, Tumblr, Instagram, etc. Now, social media bothers me. For the last couple of years, I find it sad to see how social media is used. I am tired of the meme wars going on whenever a person is insulted over a petty matter, such as how toilet paper is used or to the political uprising with ignorance and backlashing. The comments are also sometimes ignorant and insulting. What insults me more, are angry posts and their counter arguments. The animosity and anger within the anonymous can be upsetting. The profanity, racist, sexist, sexual and political comments on social media makes me think about the generation of today. How will our generation influence the next generation?

Also, media outlets are places of rudeness and aggression. In the 21st century, social media is used for communication (mainly) in photos and videos, but can be bad if used unwisely. What other uses can it give in a positive sense? So much can be used by social media. It is used for marketing, access emergency information, raise funds for emergency-related organizations, and other forms of communication that inform people quickly. Authorities use social media to track down criminals. Social media can also promote events for communities. However, social media can also spread false information, and it can corrupt people’s lives. Social media also lacks privacy and allows people’s information to spread to the public if used foolishly. It can be used for the greater good or evil. It all depends on the user.



Above: Image courtesy of Google Images.

Overuse of Praise

By Brianna Velasco
Opinions Writer

Today, everyone is rewarded for everything. Perhaps it’s a way of compensating for a lack of compliments or a way to teach children to cope with failure. But this sort of reward, does more damage than good.

Anyone who has been on a sports team probably has a trophy for their participation. This is a common practice, and many view it as positive, since it allows all participants to be included and feel that their contribution made a difference. While these are good ways to encourage children in their endeavors, kids then learn to expect compensation in everything. Later in life, when these children interview for a job or audition for a play and are rejected without receiving a ribbon for their attempt, they will not handle it as gracefully as they should. Kids are used to getting something, so getting nothing is not acceptable. Many think that giving such rewards for participation helps in handling failure, but in reality it makes it much more difficult to accept rejection, when a person has never been entirely rejected. Similarly, if someone gives a half-hearted attempt, yet still receives praise, he is likely to stop giving the effort he should.

After all, why bother pushing yourself to the limit doing excellent work when you will get the same reward for producing a mediocre result?

Now, of course, it is extremely important to let people — kids in particular — know that others are proud of them. Without some sort of praise, kids become too hard on themselves and cannot recognize when they have done a good job. However, the solution is not rewarding them for everything. Rather, people should focus on noticing when others have truly done well and be sure to acknowledge that. Tell a child that he has done a good job or pay a compliment, but tell him why. It is important for people to understand why they are being praised, so they can continue to act in a like manner. Otherwise, they don’t have any reason to act responsibly or work harder, since they receive praise regardless of whether or not it is warranted. Likewise, when you are complimented, it becomes much more meaningful when you don’t receive praise left and right.

It is difficult to find this delicate balance between tough love and over-compensation, but I believe that, if we keep trying, we’ll get it right.

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The Race of the Century

By Stephen Nickel
Opinions Writer

The people have spoken! Donald J. Trump will be the 45th President of the United States! To some this is welcome news and to others, well you just have to look on Twitter and Facebook, as well as at the protests and riots to know what they think. On top of that, you even have some professors canceling classes and tests because the students are “emotionally distraught.” Wow! It’s hard to believe America has gotten to this point. I don’t think people realize, but all of this PC culture, constant protests and coddling of students on college campuses, is the exact reason Donald Trump was elected. People in this country are sick and tired of being told they are intellectually inferior and if they don’t agree with the liberal agenda, then they are racists, bigots, misogynists, homophobes, the list goes on and on. These people were being condemned for simply having a different viewpoint and the left, instead of being tolerant like they claim to be, attacked them. Therefore, the people took it upon themselves to fight back, not with protests and

riots but by showing up on November 8th to cast their ballots. Probably the greatest part of all, is that no one saw it coming. Every major poll and news station had the chance of Hillary Clinton winning at 70 percent or higher. This just proves how fed up people were with the status quo and political elites, because Tuesday night was a complete embarrassment for the political pundits and the Washington establishment.

Now before people start saying that the system is rigged, democracy is dead, and Hillary Clinton should be president because she won the popular vote, let me remind you that the United States is NOT and has NEVER been a democracy, but rather is a Representative Republic. While you may not like the Electoral College, it is the system we operate under and I believe it is a good system. The

reason for that is, the popular vote does not accurately represent the country. There are many states who would have no say in how they were governed if we did not have the Electoral College and while I could go much deeper into why, it is a topic for another time. In closing, I think it is important to remind everyone that we are all Americans and if we truly love our country, we need to come together and give Donald Trump the chance to lead.



Above: Winner of the 2016 Presidential Election, Donald Trump (R).
Photo courtesy of Google Images.

We, the newspaper staff of *The Observer*, while exercising our First Amendment rights to freedom of speech, promise to adhere to the highest journalistic standards. *The Observer* will not print articles, editorials, or other material that misquote or misrepresent members or organizations within the Saint Joseph’s College community. While constantly striving to meet these goals, we can and will print retractions amending or remedying any problems brought to our attention.

features

Doctor Strange

By Justin Hays
Features Writer

The superhero genre has exploded in the past five years and has produced some of the top grossing films of all time. Titans of the genre, such as *The Avengers* series, have propelled the genre to grow at a furious pace. With their new film *Doctor Strange*, Marvel Studios introduces a new type of superhero movie into the ever-expanding genre. While *Doctor Strange* may seem like a far cry from previous Marvel movies, the story has an integral role in the Marvel Universe. The Marvel Universe is a complex, intertwined storyline with every movie released serving as a part of the epic, overarching story. Marvel Studios adds one more piece to their grand design with this alternative superhero story, and seems to have struck gold once again.

The story of *Doctor Strange* is one of mysticism and the occult. Stephen Strange is a renowned neurosurgeon who tragically loses the ability to use his hands via a

car accident. Looking to regain his gift, he tirelessly searches for ways to use his hands once again. His search takes him into the world of the arcane. Strange finds the person who can help him bring back his gift, but regaining his worldly abilities forces him to look to other dimensions and planes. He is forced to consult ancient texts, alternate dimensions, and mystics. What he learns in his quest enters him into a struggle much bigger than simply gaining back his physical abilities.

The mysticism of the film is something that could draw some hesitation from casual fans and moviegoers, but the well-versed Marvel fan base has powered the movie to be a tremendous box office success. Earning a 90 percent approval rating from Rotten Tomatoes, the film is one that does not just try to ride the coattails of Marvel Productions. With a cast including Benedict Cumberbatch, Chiwetel Ejiofor, and Rachel McAdams, *Doctor Strange* aims to be a force of its own and not just an addendum to

the burgeoning Marvel storyline. Director Scott Derrickson incorporated many esoteric concepts, such as alternate dimensions, with a meticulous attention to detail and accuracy.

This next step in the Marvel behemoth is another indicator that Marvel Studios can seemingly do no wrong as of late. The super hero genre has been heavily saturated in recent times, but *Doctor Strange* is a unique story that does not tire an already expansive category. The exceptional directing and strong cast power the film, and it will be interesting to see how Marvel incorporates *Doctor Strange* into future films and storylines. Casual fans should give the mysticism a chance, and well-versed fans will admire the attention paid to this creative step.



Above: A poster for Doctor Strange.
Photo courtesy of Google Images.

Derek Hughes

By Kylie Hill
Co-Editor-in-Chief

“Hilarious until he wasn’t” is the best way to describe comedic magician Derek Hughes. Puma Activities Council (PAC) brought the *America’s Got Talent* top 10 finalist to Saint Joseph’s College on November 5, 2016. Hughes filled the ballroom with gasps of astonishment and bursts of laughter and applause.

He began the night with a trick that involved three ropes – turning an allusion into an act of magic, appearing to immediately grasp the attention of the Pumas. His next trick involved a deck of cards- a staple for a magician. He called Courtney Kvachkoff on stage to assist. He had her sign a card so we would know he was not changing decks or had a trick card. I myself have a similar card to Courtney’s that I signed, when he came to campus two years ago. His show followed the same sequence, trick for trick, as he did the last time he came to campus, except for the very last one.

Although I was a bit disappointed that the show was virtually the same, I couldn’t help but be amazed at the complexity of some of his magic tricks; try as I might, there was no way to explain most of his tricks. For example, Hughes demonstrated his ESP abilities, at first pretending he was wrong. However, he later revealed that he did in fact, read the students’ minds. The trick totally baffled me, despite seeing it before. How could he know that Senior Toni Franco was thinking of the name “Hunter?” or that Sophomore Mary Kennan was picturing

the city of “Tampa?” It was astonishing and entertaining.

His tricks were truly amazing. However, at times I was less than impressed with his comedy. Overall, he did an excellent job relating his jokes to college students. I found myself laughing at most of his jokes and anecdotes. However, there were times when he took some of his jokes too far, turning them into crass sexual references. At one point, he suggested a female student should become a magician. He then created a new term for “magician” that plays off a female reproductive organ. Although this joke got some laughs, I found it offensive – degrading women to a body part. Later, he shared an anecdote about cheerleaders. It was funny at first, until he took it too far, referring to cheerleaders as “ravenous,” saying their role was “to excite the players,” and even suggested that cheerleaders should start providing some “girl on girl action” for the entertainment of the players. I found this comment completely inappropriate, demeaning, and sexist. He should not have taken his joke in this direction.

Continuing with the theme of taking his comedy too far, his finale ended with him pulling down his zipper and eventually his pants, something I was not expecting and did not wish to see. He did get quite a bit of laughs; however, I personally found his nudity to be a bit too much. His magic deserves 5/5 stars, but his comedy does not match up.

By Wesley Hutson
Features Writer

For the past decade, Xbox and Playstation has left the console of our collective childhood, Nintendo, in the literal and figurative dust. Nintendo has always been on the front end of innovation, from using rumble packs to progress saving checkpoints, the last real update that really made an impact to the gaming community was with the Wii in 2006, with motion triangulation software that allowed a remote to replace the familiar controller. While this technology became a huge phenomenon for video games for the next few years, Nintendo quickly had the rug pulled out from under them with the Kinect for the Xbox 360 and the motion wand for the PS3. Nintendo has since slowly faded into the background, focusing more on handheld systems than consoles, and is now more a hipster/ college student trend than a modern gaming contender.

That’s where the Nintendo Switch comes in. The new system is a hybrid console, something altogether new in the world of gaming, and it is set to release in March of 2017. It features two detachable controller halves, called Joy-Cons, similar to the wireless nunchuck from the Wii system, but the Joy-Cons can be handled separated or together on a gamepad. The console, which is similar to a tablet, is defaultly connected to a TV via a docking station, but it can be detached and docked between the Joy-Cons to become a handheld

Nintendo Switch



Above: A photo displaying the Nintendo Switch controller and console which can be removed from the dock and taken on the go.
Photo courtesy of Google Images.

unit. Although there is no further information regarding accessories for the console, there has been an official statement from Nintendo’s president Tatsumi Kimishima that the Switch will support a wide selection of accessories, many of which will be revealed in January.

In the reveal in October, there were several new games shown to be in development for the Switch release, including a version of *Skyrim*. Based on the official game listing, at least initially, *Skyrim* will not be a part of the Switch game package. However, the Switch will feature new and exciting games like *The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild*,

Project Sonic 2017, the vehicle simulation *Tank it!*, *Just Dance*, a currently unnamed Pokemon game, and nine others in the first run.

Personally, I think this shows a lot of promise. The versatility of the hybrid console is the first of its kind, and it is certainly something other companies could capitalize on if it proves viable for Nintendo. The games that are expected to come out with the Switch appeal greatly to the college-going generation as they are the continuations of the games they grew up with, so the power of nostalgia comes into play, similar to the *Pokemon Go!* app.



Above: Nintendo’s unique hybrid console

Left: the new hand-held console

Photo courtesy of Google Images.

The Originals

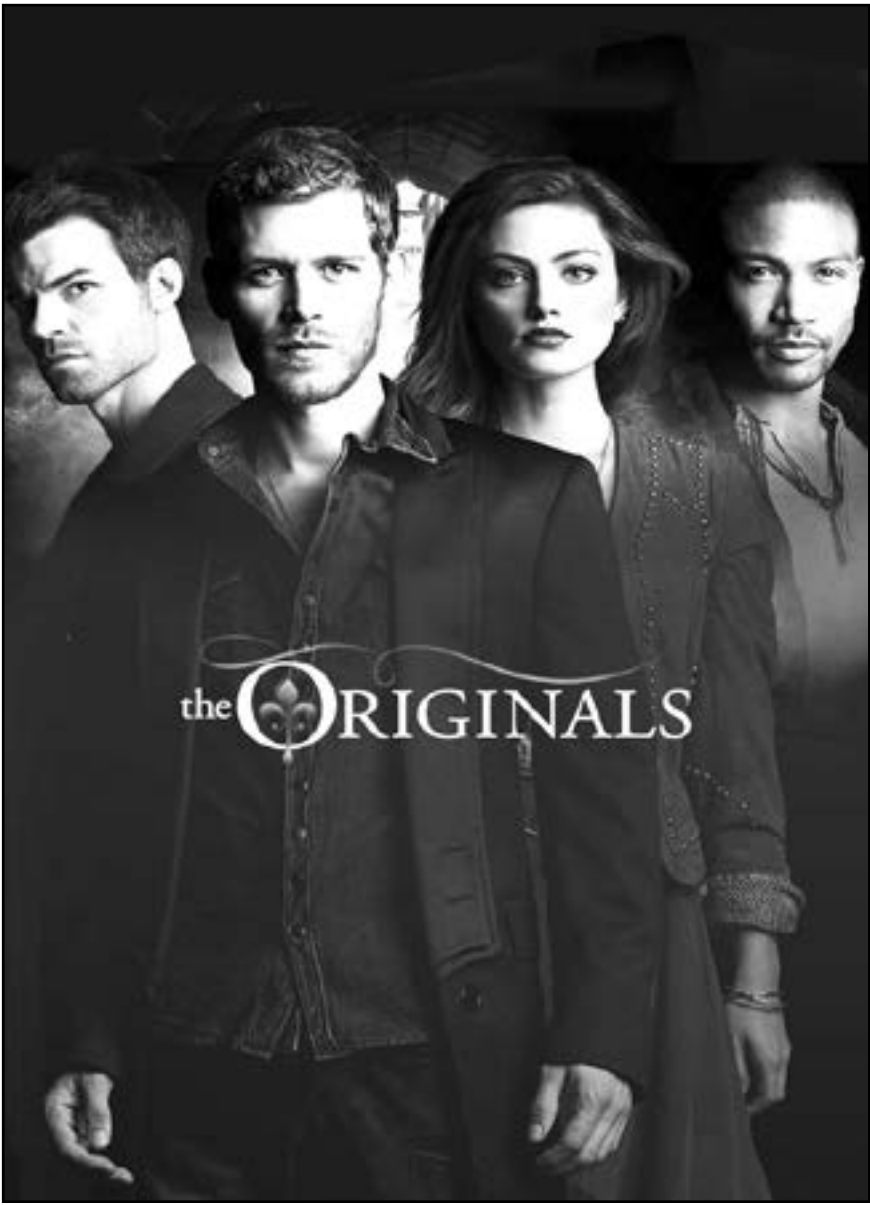
By Justice McGee
Features Writer

If you’ve seen *The Vampire Diaries* you’re all too familiar with Klaus Mikaelson; notorious villain, a thousand years old and a hybrid of a wolf and an original vampire. I know, quite the parentage. If you’re anything like me and have a strange interest in the villain of almost every book, TV show and movie and Klaus being one of them, I’d like to turn you onto *The Originals*. This is a show that was a spinoff of *TVD* and it’s all about our favorite, original family; the Mikaelsons.

In *TVD* Klaus had traveled to one of his favorite cities and old home, New Orleans. There is where he runs into an old friend, Marcel Gerard, who is not too eager to see Klaus around. Klaus also finds out that he’s going to have a child with a werewolf girl named Hayley -- a bit crazy considering he’s been technically dead for a thousand years. *The Originals* begins where *TVD* left off. We now get a look into the life of Klaus Mikaelson. *The Originals* offers us a chance to see not only the bad things Klaus has done, but also the good things he’s done and why he is the way he is. We’re introduced to a new side of Klaus we didn’t get to see in *TVD* and we’re able to see his relationship with his siblings. *The Originals* give us back stories into the life of Klaus. It’s full of excitement and interesting storylines. For example, Marcel

Gerard, is the adopted son of Klaus. In *The Originals* we are given a backstory to Klaus’ relationship with Marcel. How they met and how much Marcel had meant to Klaus. This, I believe, is an important part in *The Originals*. Klaus’ relationship with Marcel is seen throughout almost every episode and it was the first relationship of Klaus’ we’ve ever seen truly mean something to him. Klaus has his siblings, but we’ve seen him dagger them, betray them, and hurt them many times. Whereas, his relationship with Marcel was far different. Where he felt like the odd one out with his siblings, he felt as though he and Marcel were the same. He raised Marcel and loved him like a son.

This story is important to the larger story of Klaus. Throughout *The Originals*, Klaus is still himself -- mischievous and hated by most -- but he’s also got a lot of love and compassion. We see this many times throughout the TV show. We see it in most of his newfound relationships and in his memories from the past. We also get to see the redemption Elijah fought for a thousand years to see his brother have. Even if you haven’t seen *TVD*, you should watch *The Originals*!



Above: A promotional poster for the CW television show The Originals. Photo courtesy of Google Images.

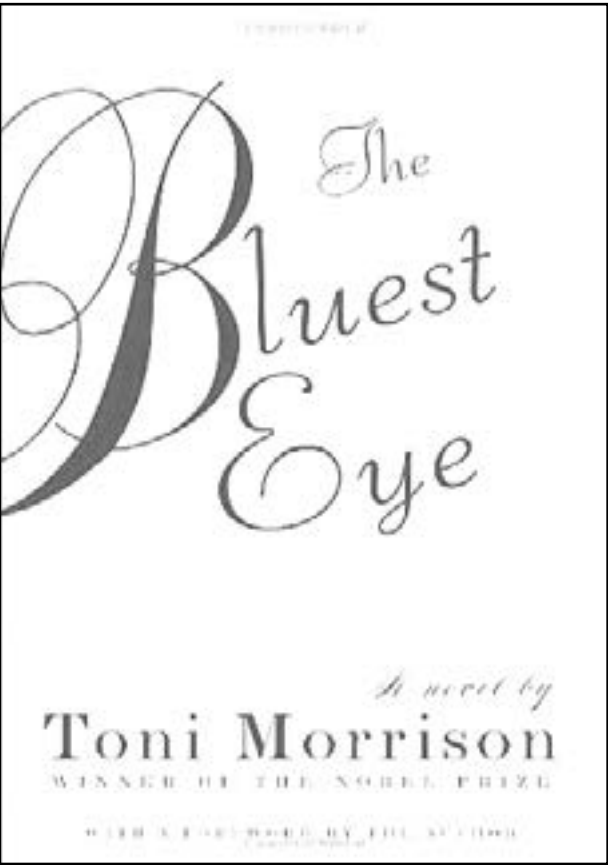
The Bluest Eye

By Connor Ring
Features Writer

Every now and then, it’s important to take some time looking into more tragic and heartfelt works in order to get an appreciation for what we enjoy most in life. For me, I chose to delve into *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison. This book is written around the lives of two young girls named Claudia and Frieda, who live in Lorain, Ohio at the end of the Great Depression. The book centers around how they see their community as well as the family around them. While the story is told from the perspective of Claudia, the main protagonist is actually Pecola, an African American girl who continuously has her life ruined by everything around her. Pecola is constantly bullied by her peers, reminded of her “place” in the novel as an African American, and is riddled with strife in everything that she does. She doesn’t even believe in herself, seeing herself as ugly because she doesn’t have enough “whiteness” like her idol Shirley Temple. She truly believes that she is worthless, and this theme isn’t just within Pecola alone. Many of the examples of the African American women in this novel all have this feeling of being lesser than their white peers, feeling ugly because they aren’t white. It’s one of the most heart-wrenching things to read on from, as the novel hammers in this terrifying ideal of “white is right”. Of course, this isn’t trying to say that, but

rather identify it so that we can learn better from it as a society.

While I don’t generally like reading novels that act as personal accounts of history, this one was one of the most engaging reads I had the pleasure of looking at. While it is a heavy-handed story, the characters themselves are realistic in tone to what history portrayed the atmosphere as at the time. This is most likely credited to Toni Morrison making most of the story based around where she lived as a young child. She lived in Lorain, Ohio, and was about nine years old in 1941, which parallels Claudia being nine years old at the end of the Great Depression. The autobiographical elements to the novel are what gets to me as a reader because this gives it a valid claim to its historical relevance. The writer lived in a similar setting, and thus has a greater understanding than I could ever get from just a normal history book. The accounts of a young girl



Above: A cover for The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison . Photo courtesy of Google Images.

living her life in fear, hoping to “obtain blue eyes and no longer be ugly” is such a powerful message in oppression and tragedy, and it brings tears to your eyes as you read. So while it is a painful story to go through, it is one I recommend whole-heartedly. I give the book a solid 10 out of 10, as its message and historical accuracy are enough to fill this story with enough tear-jerking moments that you can’t help but read on.

Denny’s

By Cameron Adams
Features Writer

This week’s review is of a place that is filled with great memories and even better-tasting food. Denny’s is open 24 hours and is willing to take any and everyone, as long as you’re ready for great food.

Denny’s claim to fame is that it’s a restaurant where you can have whatever you want, whenever you want it. A bacon cheeseburger for breakfast. A stack of cinnamon pancakes at 3 in the morning. They have no qualms with giving you what you want graciously. You come right in. You get seated. You order. You get your food. You eat. You pay. You leave. It’s that simple.

Denny’s pleasant atmosphere puts you at ease very easily and makes it that much easier for you to focus on the food and the people you are enjoying it with.

The three closest Denny’s to SJC are in Merrillville, Hebron, and Lafayette. I went to the Denny’s in Lafayette. You just get onto I-65 going South toward Lafayette and you keep going until you get to the exit 172 for IN-26 toward Lafayette. It should be very visible and easy to get to from there. When I went, it was actually really late, like “late evening, early morning”

late. Some of my friends and I went, and honestly I loved my experience. The servers who were there were very pleasant. They were attentive and made sure me and my party were well-looked after. Because we were there late, it was relatively empty. Our party was only joined by two others. So it was a lot easier for the server to take the time to actually talk to us and make a genuine connection.

I ordered a “Moon Over My Hammy”, which is basically ham, eggs, and cheese on toast, with French fries. The other people in my party ordered pancakes, a skillet, and a hamburger. I thoroughly enjoyed my meal and my party members all really seemed to enjoy their meals. One thing that we all appreciated when we went there was that for all of us the meal was a little more than 10 dollars per person. So it was relatively cheap considering the generous amounts of food given and the quality of the food given.

So, if you’re hungry and in the mood for great service, great atmosphere, and greater food, make the trip to Denny’s. A down side may be the distance, but get some friends together and make an adventure of it. You won’t regret it. Happy Eating.

Racing for Regionals



*Pictured: Brian Eurton, Rachel Bartz, Bill Massoels, Hannah Wallace, Maddie Biddle, Lane Barrett, and Justin Hays
Photo courtesy of Susie Hays*

By Hannah Wallace
Sports Editor

As the Pumas traveled to Angel Mounds State Historic Site on November 5th, they were headed for the race they have trained for since May. As cross country is unpredictable, just as most sports, the mindset “last race, best race” must always be taken into consideration. The Pumas never quite know when their season will end - it all depends on how fast, fierce, and furious they run. Bill Massoels motto this season has been “if you’re going to be anything early, be patient.” However, there is something about the last race where the mind says otherwise. The training, the

mileage, the pain, and the endurance was existent in every Puma that day - they had already done all the work that mattered. The training was there, the only part the runners had to conquer were their minds.

For the men, seniors Justin Hays, Brian Eurton, and Lane Barrett competed in their last collegiate cross country race. Hays led the men finishing 21st place overall with a time of 31:09 earning himself a medal. The All-Regional Athlete with that time also broke the school record for the 10k. Following close behind Hays was Eurton with a time of 31:44 and Barrett at 33:13. Marcus Fierek completed his first ever Regional with a time

of 33:04 finishing right between his two senior teammates. These performances allowed the men to qualify for a team finish of 14th place overall.

Meghan Hennessey led the lady Pumas in the 6k race with a time of 23:10. Following Hennessey were Hannah Wallace and Brooke Werstler side by side with times of 23:33 and 23:37. Wallace, Rachel Bartz, and Maddie Biddle competed in their last ever collegiate Regional for cross country and all were able to finish even stronger than they started. The ladies had a challenging season with injuries to overcome by many, but this only enhanced their determination and strength leading up to their

last race and leading into their indoor season.

As cross country ends, indoor track begins. The Pumas have taken a 2 week break from running to rest and recover, however, come November 28th the intense training, mileage, and weather begins again for them. The Pumas are now entering into their indoor track season which will again transition into outdoor track that will continue up until May of 2017. The Puma Distance Crew will be joined by their fellow track and field stars - we can expect astonishing performances from all sides, and this all will begin in January 13th of 2017 at the University of Findlay.

One Last Time for Puma Football



*Pictured: Tremel Glasper
Photo courtesy of Fr Tim McFarland*

By Christine Manika
Sports Writer

The Saint Joseph’s College Football team took a 23-3 loss to the Truman State University Bulldogs on Saturday at home. This was the last time the seniors played at Alumni Field in front of the SJC community. The Bulldogs clinched this win and are now in the hopes of a GLVC Championship with a week left in the regular season.

To start the game, the Bulldogs took their time between each snap. The first

quarter was a close battle, until the last five minutes when the Bulldogs made the first score of the game with a 33-yard field goal. The Pumas tried to answer back, but could not return the favor. The Bulldogs ran up the score during the start second quarter with a nine-yard touchdown.

The Pumas then got the ball moving going 78-yards and 12 plays. Marcin Gawlak came out on the field and makes a 25-yard field goal to get on the board. Pumas were down 3 to 10 and

this score carried into halftime.

During the start of the second half, the Pumas attempted to complete an onside kick. But, the ball did not go 10 yards. The Bulldogs took over and they had possession of the ball for at least 33 minutes of the game, which reduced the Pumas’ chances.

With 10 minutes in the third quarter, the Bulldogs then completed another touchdown and later adding another one in the fourth. SJC did not score during the third or fourth quarters of the game. Final score:

Bulldogs 23 and Pumas 3.

Phillip Kimble did however complete 16 passes for 189 yards. Defensively, Chad Veccharella and Luke Teague each collected 11 tackles on the day.

The Pumas final game of the season will be at the University of Indianapolis facing off the Greyhounds. Kickoff began at 3pm with the final score coming to a 23-3 loss.

The men fought until the very end for this game, and are ready to come back stronger than ever next fall.

Upcoming Events

November 18th

Women’s Basketball vs Lake Erie College in Rochester, NY
7:00pm

November 19th

Women’s Basketball vs Stonehill College in Rochester, NY
1:00pm

Men’s Basketball at Ohio Dominican University
3:00pm

November 21st

Men’s Basketball vs Lincoln Christian University
7:30pm

November 25th

Women’s Basketball vs Northern Michigan University
3:00pm

Men’s Basketball vs Grand Valley vs. Upper Iowa in Rensselaer, Ind.
6:00pm

Men’s Basketball vs Salem International University
8:00pm

November 26th

Women’s Basketball vs Ohio Valley University
3:00pm

Men’s Basketball vs Saint Joseph’s College at 6:00pm & 8:00pm

Volleyball Ends Season with Losses

By Madyson Anthony
Sports Writer
and Kylie Hill
Co-Editor-in-Chief

The Lady Pumas unfortunately ended their season the same as they opened it: with three losses. In their final home game, November 8, 2016, the Women’s Volleyball team fell to the University of Indianapolis (UIndy) losing all three sets. However, the Lady Pumas fought, with scores being close: 25-23, 25-18, and 26-24. Even though the Greyhounds

kept their lead, the Pumas would shake them up, often going on scoring sprees; for example, in the first set, Junior Bridget Krasowski earned two kills, helping the Pumas attempt a comeback. Sophomore Jordan Dixon also contributed to the rally as she successfully executed five serves in a row, scoring points. Despite the defeat, the Pumas did match UIndy in both aces and total attempts. On Friday, November 11, 2016, the Saint Joseph’s College volleyball team played the University of Wisconsin Parkside

and lost in straight sets. The Rangers (9-8 GLVC) held a .269 attacking percentage for the match while SJC struggled offensively, hitting a -.043. UWP won the first set 25-13 and continued on to win the second as well, 25-16. The match concluded with Parkside taking the third set 25-19. Despite the loss, the Pumas had some positives. The Lady Pumas bested UW-Parkside in number of aces and total assists. Unfortunately, the Pumas large number of errors affected their success. The next day, the Pumas hoped



Senior Katie Dugan goes for a dig in the last home game on November 8, 2016. Katie Dugan has a career total of 999 digs. Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland

Below: Freshman Julia Kruzan about to execute a kill against UIndy during the final home game on November 8, 2016. Kruzan is an outside hitter for the team. She has an average of 3 kills per set and a .228 hitting percentage. Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland.



to redeem themselves against Lewis University, but fell short and ended their season with a 0-3 loss to the No. 15 Flyers. The Flyers (17-1 GLVC) took the momentum right away in the first set winning 25-18 with a .265 attacking percentage. The score was at first tied at 15 in the opening set, but Lewis went on a run to build a lead and close out the set. The Pumas trailed 19-13 in the second set and the Flyers won six of the next seven points to gain the advantage over the match 2-0. SJC again trailed 21-15 in the third set but had a series of runs to be brought to 22-24. The Pumas lost the next point and concluded their season with a record of 7-23, 3-15 GLVC. Despite the ups and downs of the season, the Pumas had a memorable season. Junior Bailey

Worl commented on the season as a whole: “Even though our record doesn’t show it, we have made so much progress this season with completed against teams we would have lost a lot by. We took for sets from teams as well and I just feel that the overall chemistry of the team was so much better this year. SJC Volleyball will say goodbye to Senior Katie Dugan who is majoring in Math/Accounting. Dugan is a defensive specialist on the team known as the libero. Over her four years as a Lady Puma, Dugan has earned Academic All-GLVC. In her collegiate career, Dugan has participated in 84 matches, playing in 282 sets. She has successfully executed 999 digs and 51 aces.

Athlete Spotlight: Peter Munro

By Kylie Hill
Co-Editor-in-Chief



Photo courtesy of SJC Athletics

Peter Munro is a Sophomore at Saint Joseph’s College from Liverpool, England. He is studying Political Science. Munro is a midfielder for the Men’s Soccer Team. In the 2016 season, Munro played a total of 18 games., starting 16 of them. This season he had 17 shots with 8 shots on goal. He also executed the lone assist for the winning goal over nationally-ranked Quincy on September 25. Munro excels off the field as well; he has earned Academic All-GLVC two seasons in a row.

Q: When and why did you start playing your sport?
A: I started playing soccer when I was very young. It’s all kids do in Liverpool when they grow up. I’ve always been playing since I can remember.
Q: Who is role model and why?
A: I have so many role models for so many different aspects of my life. I have one for soccer, school, politics etc. To name a couple, I would say Steven Gerrard because he is a Liverpool hero, and Robert F. Kennedy because he worked tirelessly to make the world a better place.

Q: What made you choose SJC?
A: I wanted to continue playing soccer, live in the USA, and study politics. With small class sizes and emphasis on teacher-student relationship I feel that SJC can help me reach my full potential and meet my ambitions.
Q: What are your hobbies?
A: I like to relax in my spare time. I watch TV and YouTube videos. I also enjoy writing and learning about history.
Q: Do you have any rituals you do to pump you up for a game?
A: I used to listen to music all the

time before a game, I enjoyed having my earphones in and being in my own world. But now, I feel that it’s more effective to talk and interact with the team in the dressing room. If we all listen to the same music together out loud on a speaker, it leads to a better team performance than if everyone keeps to themselves. Other than that, I don’t really have any rituals, I’m not very superstitious.

Athlete Spotlight: Nick Faus

By Kylie Hill
Co-Editor-in-Chief



Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland

Nick Faus is a Senior at Saint Joseph’s College from Elkhart, IN. However, on the football team, he is considered a Junior, as he was redshirted his freshman year. He is majoring in Physical Education. Faus is a quarterback for the Puma Football Team. Due to his redshirt freshman year, Faus hasn’t seen a lot of action on feild, but he still excelled off the field, earning Academic All-GLVC in 2014. Most recently, Faus played in the UIndy game on Saturday, November 12. Faus threw a total of 107 passing yards; his longest pass was 33 yards resulting in a touchdown.

Q: When and why did you start playing football?
A: I started playing football when I was in the 4th grade. I started playing because all my friends played.
Q: Who is your role model and why?
A: My role model is Russell Wilson. I think it’s unique how he carries himself on and off the field.
Q: What made you want to come to Saint Joseph’s?
A: I chose SJC because of the opportunities it would give me after graduation.

Q: What are your hobbies?
A: My hobbies, when I have free time are; spend time with my friends, watch movies, and read.
Q: What has it been like playing football here with your little brother, Junior Blake Faus
A: Being able to play with my brother has been a blessing. God has his way of working things out and I’m just grateful that I’ve been able to play side by side with my brother these last four years.

one thing I do is I warm up the same way before every game.
Q: What is your favorite memory of this season so far?
A: My favorite memory of this season is the bus rides home with the fellas after a win. There’s nothing like it!

Q: Do you have any rituals you do before a game?
A: I don’t have any rituals that pump me up before games, but

the back page

Creative Corner

Walden Woods

By: Kylie Hill

Tall tress towering,
Satin leaves underfoot,
Light peaking between
Branching overlapping and stretching,

Early March wind,
Stinging my face,
Marking it with red,
But I welcome it
Like a kind caress.

The rustle of small creatures,
The birds intermitted chime,
Fills the post-winter air
As they begin to return
To their homes in the trees
After their southern journeys.

The pond twinkles
As the light gently kisses
The clear, icy water that
Ripples around my feet.
The silt and sand
Filled with rocks and small shells
Covers my feet.

I begin to lose sensation
As the water numbs
And turns them an icy red,
But I welcome it
As I would a warm blanket.

The trees seem to sigh
As a wind moves through them.
The wind moves through me too,
I breath in and out.

I breath in the trees,
The pond, the leaves,
The dirt, the sticks, and stones.
They enter my soul
And I breath my soul onto them,
Creating a bond to
Live deliberately
Within our natural world.



Ceramic sculptures by Peyton Lewis



Coil pots by Chad Veccharella, Judy Cummings, and Sam Heasty

Love by Letting Go

By: Samantha Hoyt

A sweet and beautiful state of mind
Freedom's finally on its way
No worries, cares, or troubles; no,
Just sweet release, relief; and yes
I believe in safety-safety
In fights, not flights. I will not run
Away; I stand defiant
Battered, bruised, triumphant
With a crooked smile on my face.
I never would have thought that I
Could find happiness-find the way
To love by letting go.



Ceramics student Joe Haberlin works on his coil pot